

TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 8, 1898.

Subscription by Hall, Post-Paid. DAILT, per Month ...... 80 80 9 00 DAILY, per Year ..... Postage to foreign countries added. THE SUR, New York City.

Pants-Riceque No. 18, near Grand Hotel, and Elecque No. 10, Boulevard des Capucines.

If our friends who favor us with manuscripts for publication wish to have rejected articles returns they must in all cases send stamps for that purpose.

#### Anyhow, and Now!

For the satisfaction of the American people, and for the sake of the future that before us, the annexation of Hawaii should be completed without much further delay. Close up this transaction of national importance, take possession of the property that is ours for the asking, record the title deeds at once, in order that the country may attend to other matters.

It makes no difference whether annexation is consummated by treaty or by bill or joint resolution. The twentieth century will care as little about the methods of procedure which added to our national territory this priceless station in the Paeific as we care now about the exact details and legislative mechanism of the process which gave us California and Texas and Alaska. The Mugwump obstructionists of national destiny will all be dead or silent; and they will have no successors. The America of the twentieth century will bless us unanimously for having had wit enough not to allow a great opportunity to escape, not to allow a great treasure to pass forever into the hands of England or some other European power. They will thank heaven that we had the energy to strike when the iron was hot.

The treaty hangs in the Senate. Whether there are sixty votes there to ratify it if the roll were called to-day, THE SUN does not profess to know. There may be sixtyone. There may be only fifty-nine. If there are sixty-one, or even sixty, jam the treaty through, if every tradition of the Senate is crushed flat as a pancake in the jamming thereof. If there are only fiftynine, and no other in sight, do not wait for the slow process of evolution to transform fools into wise men, or to transmute selfish and self-opinionated and short-sighted and possibly ignobly influenced opponents of annexation into patriotic American Senators with eyes that see quite to the horison. Do not waste time in electioneering for a two-thirds majority, when a majority will suffice. Press the Morgan bill ahead of the treaty. Pass the Morgan bill and send it to the House.

The House will pass it, too: no fear about that! The President will sign it, and the Stars and Stripes will float over the lovely Hawaiian archipelago.

# New York Harbor Neglected.

We imagine that few readers of THE SUN within the limits of the Greater New York failed to mark and digest the facts and figures which we printed yesterday to show the treatment which our harbor has received at the hands of the Federal Govern-These data, which may be describe as startling, are the outcome of an inquiry into the sums of money appropriated by Congress for river and harbor improvements during the whole period between 1790 and 1896. The insignificant amount expended for that purpose on the port of New York is then contrasted with its huge contributions to that part of the Federal revenue which is derived from customs duties.

It is maintained by Mr. John W. Am BROSE, the compiler of these statistics, that the Federal money laid out for improv ing the Harlem River, for removing rocks at Hell Gate, and for improving the channel off Sandy-Hook, ought not to be charged to New York harbor properly so called. As reasonable would it be to charge the vast sums expended at the mouth of the Mississippi River to the account of New Orleans. The harbor of New York, as defined by Mr. AMBROSE, is that body of water which lies inside and north of the Narrows at Fort Hamilton, and comprises, first, the Upper Bay, which terminates at the Battery; secondly, the East River, as far as Port Morris, and, thirdly, the Hudson River, from the Battery as far as Spuyten Duyvil Creek. The improvements at Sandy Hook he thinks should be charged to another account, as they affect not only the commerce of New York city, but also all the coastwise trade of New England which finds its way southward through Long Island Sound and the East River. It was mainly to benefit the same coastwise trade that the rocks at Hell Gate were removed. Even if, however, the appropriations for the channel off Sandy Hook, for Hell Gate, and for the Harlem River should be added to the sum expended on New York harbor proper, the total would still be ridiculously small, when contrasted with New York's contributions to the Federal revenue.

New York harbor as being one analogous to that accepted in the case of New Orleans and other ports, we find that out of every one hundred cents which the Federal Gov ernment has expended during the last 106 years for the improvement of all the rivers and harbors in the country, it has given only one-half of one cent to the harbor of New York. How much, on the other hand, has the port of New York done for the Federal Government? Statistics showing receipts from import duties prior to 1856 are not attainable, and Mr. AMBROSE has, accordingly, confined his researches con cerning this matter to the forty-one years from 1856 to 1896, both inclusive. The result of the investigation is that out of every one hundred cents collected by the Federal Government at all the ports of the country for these forty-one years, 69 cents were collected at New York, and only 31 cents from all the rest. That is to say, the Federal Government has secured at this port two-thirds of the revenue that has enabled it to live and pay its debts, yet, for the enormous benefits received from the port of New York, it has given practically nothing in return. In the 106 years covered by this inquiry, there are but four

Ifowe adopt Mr. AMBROSE'S definition of

items of appropriation for improvements in New York harbor proper, and these foot up the sum of \$2,252,500. During the same period Congress has appropriated for Galveston harbor and bay \$8,704,800; for the harbor of Charleston, \$4,277,200; for the river and harbor of Savannah, \$5, 580,606; for the harbor of Baltimore, \$3,-721,030; for the harbor of Philadelphia, \$3.241.000 : for the harbor of Boston, \$3, 724,196, and for the harbor of Mobile, \$3,-593,630. Nay, it has spent on the Kentucky River, the contribution of which to the Federal revenue is nil, \$2,281,155, or more than it has devoted to the Upper Bay of New York, a port which has contributed 69 cents out of every dollar se-

oured from customs duties. Whether Mr. AMBROSE's basis of comparison is strictly correct or not, by the pubication of these statistics he has rendered a service to the people of this city and to the country at large. He has rendered it impossible for Congress to refuse to recognize the title of our harbor to such improvements of its channel as are called for by the greatly increased size of ocean-going steamships.

## Moderation in All Things.

This letter is from a Philadelphia correspondent who must have read very carelessly the article he criticises:

"To the Entrol of The Sur-Sir: In an article of your's the other day on manners of the past, and noting their improvement, I was surprised to find what I consider a confounding of the doctrines of temperance and total abstinence, which latter I take to be included in the term prohibition. When we are admonished to be temperate in all things, even in language, I presume it was never intended that we should abstain from talkings and so in our 'master. should abstain from talking; and so in our 'meats and drinks.' Pray relieve the mind of one accus-tomed to drink wine at table who has heretofore believed that there was virtue in temperance, and still thinks there is but little in prohibition.

"A DRIBERR OF LIGHT WHEE,"

Actually there was no confounding of temperance with total abstinence in the article in question. We said merely, and now repeat, that probably the practice of total abstinence has helped incidentally to produce the present increase of temperance, and we recommended, and still recommend, it to college undergraduates gener ally, on the ground that boys are better off without alcoholic stimulants.

Temperance, really, is a dictate of simple self-respect, overindulgence in eating or drinking being unbecoming in a reasoning being. The evil consequences of in temperance physically, and by reflection morally, are also apparent to sensible people. It is bad manners and bad policy. Temperance in all things has increased, accordingly, as men have grown more civilized and more philosophical, They have not adopted it as a matter of principle, but from prudence and a sense of propriety and decency, and because, with a more accurate understanding of the physical injury caused by overstimulation and of the bounds within which reasonable moderation is confined, they have learned o be more careful in the matter.

At least, so it is with the great mass of reasonable people like our correspondent. Others, believing that abstinence is a religious obligation, on the ground that a Christian should avoid anything that might prove a stumbling block to his weaker brother, refrain from the use of alcoholic stimulants totally, and their course deserves the commendation which belongs to self-control and self-sacrifice prompted by so altruistic a motive.

Of course, moderation generally is incidental to increasing refinement. Simple good taste requires it, and accordingly profanity and all sorts of violence of speech, of selfassertion, and of boisterous behavior have fallen under reproach. Moreover, medicine has stepped in to demonstrate that habitual intemperance is a disease, or tends to the production of a disease, which may require restraint like any other insanity. Consequently a disposition to consume alcohol mmoderately invites sinister suggestions which reasonable men do not care to pro-

voke in themselves or in others. Such is the growing feeling touching temperance among cultivated and reasoning people in New York, and we assume that in Philadelphia there is the same sentiment. So far from indicating a tendency in favor of prohibition, it indicates rather that the temperance question is solving itself in the natural progress of society, and that State prohibition is as unnecessary as it has proved impracticable and provocative of the very evils it sets out to remedy.

In other words, the world is getting better and wiser as it grows older, and the improvement extends throughout civilized

# The Atlas Company's Plan.

In the proposed contract between Nicaragua and the Atlas Steamship Company it is especially declared that the concession made to this British company shall not affect the Government's agreement for constructing an interoceanic canal "along the same line," nor interpose any obstacle to

This very statement shows that the need of making such a disclaimer was felt, and now the only question is as to whether there is any conflict between the earlier and the later grant. Nicaragua's concession to the Maritime Canal Company declares that, during its continu ance, no other concession shall be made for a canal between the two oceans, nor for any "railroad, such as might compete with the canal for the transportation of merchandise;" but the Government, it is added, may permit the construction of such railways as it may deem advisable for commerce and internal traffic."

The proposed concession to the Atlas Company does not include a canal, but it does include extensive and exclusive river navigation along the same line, and it also includes railroads, although probably it will be said that such roads are not of the sort prohibited by the contract with the Maritime Canal Company. The Atlas Company is to have for thirty years not only the right of steam navigation on the San Juan River but the right to deepen its channels, and to construct "tramways and railroads along the line and at the best places to avoid obstacles in the River San Juan," as well as the exclusive right of

navigation in the Silico lagoon. The question, therefore, is whether the Atlas Company's right to construct railroads along the San Juan is in conflict with the earlier company's right "to construct and operate a railway along the whole extent of the canal, or those parts of the same that may be considered convenient for the better service and operation of the said work." It will perhaps be urged that where a right, not exclusive, is granted to the Canal Company, a similar right may be granted to an other company for a different purpose. And again, Nicaragua, pointing to its reserved authority to make concessions of "such railways as it may deem advisable for com-

erce and internal traffic," will doubtless insist that the Silico lagoon and San Juan grants are clearly for commerce and internal traffic.

If, as has been reported, the Atlas Company offers \$5,000,000 and Nicaragua holds out for \$6,000,000, transportation privileges of great value are in question. People do not pay such a price without expecting something for it.

The first question, however, to determine is whether the railway grants along the San Juan "might compete with the canal for the transportation of merchandise." The canal enterprise is of such enormous value to Nicaragua that wisdom would suggest making that secure by giving it the benefit of all possible advantages and feeders along its line.

## The Profits on Bank Currency.

The clamor for the retirement of the Government notes at a cost of \$500,000,-000, and for their replacement with bank notes, proceeds, mainly, as THE SUN has often pointed out, from bank officers and stockholders, who desire the profits which the issue of bank notes would yield them, and from borrowers from banks, who fancy that it would be easier for them to get accommodations if the banks had larger liberty and more inducement to avail themselves of it, in the matter of providing the nation with paper money. some of the champions of the banks have had the hardihood to deny this fact and to assert that little or no profit accrues to the banks from issuing currency, but that they ssume the function solely for the benevo lent purpose of protecting the Treasury against the perils to which the issue of Government notes exposes it.

The Hon. J. H. WALKER, Chairman of the House Committee on Banking and Currency, and an enthusiastic advocate of the cause of the banks, has, however, the honesty to confess the truth, and to confirm THE SUN's assertion. He says:

"The trouble with the currency system, resulting in a demand for legislation, is that a large percentag of the banks' profits are in the currency they issue. France, Germany, and every other first-class nation respt our own, loans could be made in New Engrate, and in New York, outside of New York city, at a rate one-third less than the present rate, and still the banks would pay as good dividends."

Mr. WALKER is wrong in saving that currency is issued by "banks," without exception, "in France, Germany, and every other first-class nation except our own," the truth being, that, by the nations mentioned, the privilege is restricted to one, or, at most, half a dozen banks in each, which act as the Government's fiscal agents, and, in that respect, are Government institutions. His estimate of the profits of the business is also probably too high. It is not likely, that they would be as much as one-third of the present rate of interest, but they would be considerable, and, as he points out, a bank with a capital of \$25,000 could keep out \$20,000 in notes, which would cost it nothing except the cost of paper and printing, and yet have its \$25,000 capital, besides its deposits, to lend in addition. How greatly the prospect of the profits thus to be gained would stimulate the creation of new banks, and what a flood of wildcat bank currency it would let loose upon the country it is needless to explain.

# Three Kinds of Men.

There are the straightout, unwavering, and unconditional supporters of honest money, and of the preservation of the gold standard as one with the national credit.

Then there are the Bryanites. Misguided, demagogical, and even incendiary, they still enjoy the common respect due to the courage of a vague but, in the main, not insincere conviction.

Lastly, there are the so-called gold Demo crats, individuals who two years ago showed their perception of the fraud of free silver to be clear, but who, since then have sneaked back into association with the ocratic organization, on the powerful plea that the Republicans are not perfect, or that free silver may not be the issue in 1900, or 1898, after all, and that other

issues govern between-whiles. The majority of these latter gentlemen have got office, or hope for it. Compared to them the honest Bryanite, Repudiator or Anarchist, is worthy of respect, not to say admiration. And we doubt if the Bryanite feels for trimmers of this class any less contempt than is felt for them by the men who, knowing Repudiation to be fraud, and the issue of the day, are against it, openly, squarely, without compromise, as much to-day as yesterday, and who will fight it to-morrow as resolutely as to-day.

notto: "No compromise with fraud! No imperilling of the national honor!" "An office, or some prominence in Demoeratic politics, or a little gratification on selected occasions, of our unquenched thirst

to lambast the Republicans, and the Nation's good name, and its defence against Bryanism, can look after themselves!' That is the platform of the backsliders.

# Marion Butler on Thomas Jefferson!

Senator MARION BUTLER of North Carolina, in a speech in the Senate on Thursday last, made a ludicrous attempt to expound the political philosophy of Thomas Jefferson from a Populist point of view. "I rise to state," said he, "that there has been nothing perverted, distorted, and twisted so badly during the last one bundred years in this country as what is known as Jeffersonian Democracy."

Of all the perversions and distortions of Jeffersonism since its institution, the most offensive is that enunciated by Senator BUTLER in the speech wherein he undertook to declare its fundamental principles. "I believe," he said, "in the Democracy of JEFFERSON and JACKSON. For this reason I am now a Populist. The platform of the People's party stands for the Democracy of JEFFERSON and the Republicanism of Lincoln." As well call day night as declare Populism to be Jeffersonism. The fundamental idea of the Populist platform is a vast centralized Government, which is the very reverse of the Jeffersonian theory of what the republic, to live and be perpetuated, should be. In his writings JEFFERSON again and again declared that if the Government is ever destroyed it will be first by "consolidation" and the necessary consequence of consolidation-"corruption"-corruption on so vast a scale that the world has never seen a parallel to it. "What," he asked, "has destroyed the liberties and

rights of man in every Government which

Weshington, so emphatically denounced

Senate."

has ever existed under the sun! The con centrating of all powers into one body, no matter whether of the autocrats of Russia or of the aristocrats of the Venetian This "concentrating of all powers" in the hands of the Federal authority at

and reprobated by JEFFERSON, is the cardinal idea of Populism. It stretches out its hand to clutch the control of the rallroads, the telegraph lines, the insurance interests; in a word, the whole industrial system of the country. No Government ever attempted so colossal an usurpation, and, could it be accomplished, the worst tyranny that ever existed at any period of the world's history would be, in comparison

with such a system, light and unoppressive. Senator BUTLER doubtless thinks that he s, as he declares himself to be, "a Democrat of the Jeffersonian stripe," but he is not. His speech proves that he has not the faintest idea of the Jeffersonian philosophy of government.

#### Another Trust Smasher.

As students of octopodomania we give heedful note to an anti-trust bill introduced into the Kentucky House of Repre sentatives by Mr. BRADBURN. This meas ure defines a trust as "a combination of capital, skill, or acts by two or more per sons, firms or corporations," and so on, for certain purposes, one of which is to limit or reduce the production or increase or re

duce the price of commodities. It is superfluous to enter into Mr. BRAD-BURN's list of pains and penalties. It is enough to say that whatever they are, one favored class is exempt from them, for "the provisions of this act shall not apply to agricultural products or live stock while in the homes of the producer or raiser." No trusts but agricultural trusts need apply in Kentucky. Doubtless Mr. BRAD BURN will supplement this exemption The labor trusts must be coddled as well as the farmer trusts.

It will be noticed that this bill forbids combinations of skill as well as of capital. An inventor, for instance, could not join his skill to the money of a capitalist and put upon the market an invention which would reduce the cost of any article The trusts seem to be most obnoxious to

the trust-hunter when they reduce prices. An individual can do without molestation all the wickedness forbidden by Mr. BRADBURN to two or more persons. The great capitalist or the keeper of the one general store in a given neighborhood can restrict and fix prices to the extent that the customers will stand it and the condition of the markets allows. It is important to remember that trusts are considered as an evil in themselves. What they do can be done by other means. It is not the work of the trust, but the name of the trust at which the herd of wild Buncombian asset lifts up its beauties of voice and ear.

The Hon. ROGER QUARLES MILLS of Corsicana has decided to re-elect himself to the Senate, and has issued his prospectus inviting the Texans to subscribe to and ratify him He seems to be of a retrospective cast of mind. He has very little to say about silver, which main political issue, and he has great deal to say about the tariff, which s not an issue in the view of anybody except the Gold Demograts, now fast becomng rare specimens. His young rival, Governe CULBERSON, is going to make silver the chief now occupied by the Corsicana Connen. Gov. ernor Culberson is alive and awake. Mr. MILLS seems to be in a state of political sus pended animation.

The effort, by the city of Newburgh, to tax the surplus of the Newburgh Savings Bank, has been defeated, for the present, by a decision of Justice Hirschberg, of the Supreme Court declaring such surplus to be non-taxable. In he course of his argument against the bank, the counsel for the city asserted that he had the support of the State Superintendent of Banking, the Hon. FREDERICK D. KILBURN, but this i the reverse of true. In his recent report to the Legislature, Mr. KILBURN said:

"An opinion was issued from the Attorney-Ger eral's office some time since, holding that depositor in savings banks are taxable on their deposits, and i as since been the practice of the Board of State Ta for instruction upon this point, to refer the appli certainly, the assessors were controlled by this f this action litigation has followed in one instance and the matter is now pending in the courts. Agains the Attorney-General's view the savings banks of posed an opinion supplied to them by eminent cour sel in New York, holding that the tax law is not fairly usceptible of the Attorney-General's constru To me the latter contention seems best supported by rgument and more in accordance with the statute a

Following this expression of opinion, the Su perintendent gave, in his report, very cogen reasons both for holding savings banks' deposits on-taxable under the law as it stands, and fo so amending the law as to leave no doubt upor the subject.

That delightful Populist genius, the Hon. WEB McNall, Insurance Commissioner of the State of Kansas and Pursuer General of foreign Honest Hard Money men have for a insurance corporations, is having another cor vulsion. The Eastern insurance companies that have responded to his inquiries for their annual statements have neglected to reply to this most innocent inquiry:

"What salary do you pay your President, Vice-President, Secretary, Treasurer, and other officers? Anger ploughs the brow of the mighty Mo NALL. It is murmured in Topeka that the offending companies can't get a license to do business in Kansas unless they satisfy the Commissioner's curiosity. The closest students of McNall are surprised that the companies should fail to give him the information he seeks. He wishes to find out what salaries the Eastern insurance companies pay their principal officers, so that the examiners whom he despatches to the East may ask salaries as arge of the examined companies. Some time this week he will send out blanks to the official in question, asking them: "What is the amount of your weekly butcher"

bill? "Send duplicates of your tailor's bills for the year ending Dec. 31, 1897. "Do you keep a horse?"

The Hon. WEB McNALL is no ordinary man.

GEORGE FRED WILLIAMS'S course has demailed his party, and the scouer he is suppressed better for the Democracy.—Springfield Union.

The demoralization of the Bay State Democ racy would be reasonably complete if there were no immortal WILLIAMS to take a hand in it. As for suppressing that unique and prodigious statesman, the thing can't be done. You might as well try to lock up Vesuvius with piece of sticking plaster or to quiet the ebullience of the biggest geyser by dropping into it a lock of Josian Quincy's hair. There Wil-LIAMS is and there he will declaim.

Governor Bob TAYLOR announced with unusual solemnity that he would not be a candidate for Senator in Congress from Tennesses Then he became a candidate. To such variations is the artistic temperament subjected Beaten, he uttered this noble whoop and defiance: "To those who stood here and voted against me I

have not a word to say except that the question will be between them and their people. I am an old-time old-fashioned Democrat. I believe in Democratic doctrine, and intend to stand here the remainder of my term as Governor and as long as Gon shall give me breath to fight this infernal invasion of the last rights of the people of the State by the Federal Government. If I go down in the fight a hundred times, let me go down. I know the power that has been behind the fight against me. Thank Gop, I have the courage to stand for the rights of the pe country against centralized power and trusts and corporations and railroads."

Hon ought to be centent with fighting central

power, trusts, corporations, railroads, and the Federal Government. He has enough work on hand. His place is at Nashville. Washingon, the seat of the invading Federal Govern ment, is unworthy of him. If he goes down hundred times, he will come up a hundred and one; and he knows very well that he has breath enough to puff away trusts, corporations, railroads, and the invading Goyernment, and to

keep his own trumpet full of sonorous wind,

No sooner had the report that the Hon. POTATO PINGREE was to deliver one of his soulconvulsing addresses at the Marquette Club of Chicago made the country happy than alarmed entatives of that institution gave the report the lie. They say that the Marquette Club is composed of solid Republicans, whereas Pin-GREE is a red-eyed Popullat and free-silver ranter, who has no right to call himself a Republican. The peculiar economic and financial views of this celebrated friend of man and foe of corporations are well known. The Marquette Club could not be expected to invite him as a statesman, but it might have invited him as a variety performer. He gives a good show.

#### 110 INSANE PATIENTS DEPORTED. One Was an Impoverished German Noble and Another a Russian Nihillat.

ALBANY, Feb. 7 .- During the past fiscal year the State Commission in Lunacy succeeded in sending to other States and deporting to foreign countries 110 alien and non-resident insane in nates of State hospitals at an expense of \$3,522. Among the patients deported were an impovsian Nibilist, an Austrian military officer in straitened circumstances at the time of his arrival in this country, and several Bohemians sho were returned shortly after their commit ment to the State hospitals by the United States authorities at the expense of the steamship companies bringing them here. In deporting these

panies bringing them here. In deporting these patients the commission not only saves the State \$186 per capita per annum for their maintenance for an indefinite period, or an annual sum of \$20,460, but also makes available room in the State hospitals for actual residents of the State, the cost of such accommodations amounting in each case to \$500.

The commission is much gratified over a considerable reduction for the first quarter of the present fiscal year in the cost of maintaining the State hospitals. With an increased population of 727 patients for the quarter ending Dec. 31, 1897, as compared with the corresponding quarter of 1896, the actual disbursements have decreased by \$41,855. Taking into consideration the increased population and the lower rate of maintaineatic, the total savings for the quarter would amount to \$83,890. This reduction, if maintained throughout the year, will show a saving of over \$300,000. There has been an increase for the four months ending Jan, 31 in the State hospitals of 201 patients.

#### SUTRO IS LIKE A LITTLE CHILD. The Old Millionaire Declared to Be Mentally

Incompetent. San Francisco, Feb. 7 .- Adolph Sutro, owner of the famous Sutro Tunnel, which drained all the deep mines on the Comstock lode and also the pockets of many who invested in its stock, has been declared mentally incompetent, and his daughter, Dr. Emma Sutro-Merritt, has been appointed guardian. Mr. Sutro, who is over 80, has shown signs of failing powers for several months. Those who have had business dealings with him noticed his inability to fix his atten-

with him noticed his inability to fix his attention and his tendency to ramble in his conversation. Then came a stroke of apoplexy, which made him like a little child.

He walks about his beautiful grounds, overlooking Seal Rocks and the Pacific Ocean, but he has to have an attendant. He seldom speaks and his mind appears gone. His large properties will be managed by Col. Little, who has been his agent for years. The estate is estimated to be worth \$4,000,000, and includes about 2,000 acres in San Francisco, mainly suburban lands, which Sutro bought cheap during the depreciation in values caused by the Kearney sand lots excitement.

The old millionaire, who has been a fighter all his life and who, for ten years, has waged war on the Southern Pacific Company, will spend his remaining days in peace at his home on Sutro Heights, near the Cliff House. His last great fight was for the Mayoraity of San Francisco, which he won single-handed against great opposition.

TAX FRAUDS IN NEW JERSEY. Seard of Taxation Wants to Stop Ass from Cheating Each Other

TRENTON, Feb. 7.-At the hearing this afternoon on the amendments to the tax laws submitted by the State Board of Taxation, the members of the board explained their seven bills, and no one appeared in opposition. In reference to the bill abolishing exemptions in Guardsmen, Chairman Lentz told the committee that there was an increase in exemptions of \$1,287,398 last year over 1896, and that in nearly every small town there is at least one fire company with fifty or sixty members, organized to secure exemption from taxes.

There are 418 taxing districts in the State, and there is not one in which the law is not violated. The assessor in one district of a county tries to cheat all the others. In one Passaic county district property is assessed at only 10 per cent. of its value, and in one Bergen county district the assessor reduced by 50 per cent, the valuations of men who aided in his election and increased by a like percentage those of property owners who opposed him. Guardsmen, Chairman Lentz told the commit-

#### PRINTERS TO TRY TRUCK FARMING An Experiment to Ho Begun in Pelham

Park by 150 Unemployed Men. One hundred and fifty unemployed members of Typographical Union No. 6 have agreed to try the truck farm plan of the union. They will gin operations on May 1 on the 250-acre tract begin operations on May 1 on the 250-acre tract in Pelham Bay Park which the Land Committee of the union and the Mayor's Committee on Vacant Lands have agreed to use for the purpose. The union has appropriated \$2,500 for the experiment and the Mayor's committee has appropriated alke sum.

The unemployed men can raise potatoes, turnips, or any other crop they choose, and the product will be sold for their benefit, unless they prefer to sell it themselves.

prefer to sell it themselves.

#### REMOVED THE CITY TREASURES. Reading Councils Accuse Young of Being Defaulter for \$8,000.

READING, Pa., Feb. 7.-The City Councils met n joint convention here to-night, and, after two hours' debate, removed Henry G. Young, Democrat, from the office of City Treasurer on the ground that he was a defaulter to the extent of \$8.019. Dr. John Y. Hoffman, Domocrat, Presi-dent of the Berks County Medical Society, was elected in his place. A resolution was passed to nvestigate "grave charges" against other city

#### Are Oysters and Crabs Fishes ! From the Philadelphia Record.

Annapolis, Md., Feb. 4.—The question oysters and crabs are fish has arisen in the contention between Maryland and Virginia over the divid ing line in the Potomac River. The point now raised is: Can oystering aud crabbing be included in the term "fishing"? Scientists to whom the question has been submitted agree that oysters and crabs are not lab, having neither vertebree nor red blood. In all the laws passed in Maryland oysters and fish have been separately treated. The biological department of Johns Hopkins University has informed the legis lators that goologically the oyster is not a fish.
But leading lawyers contend that legally the oyster a fish, and Cardinal Gibbons says that from Catholic Church point of view oysters and crabs have always been regarded as fish. The Church permits, however, during the Lenten season the use as food of nearly all kinds of living creatures out of the water,

# Pope Loo's Mother's Puillled Wish.

including terrapin.

From the Baltimore Sun. Pope Leo XIII., when talking of the coming twee tieth anniversary of his nomination to the pontiti-cate, recently told that once, in the presence of his mother and a peasant woman, he, then a little child. was straining to reach some object, when he fell to the ground. The country woman picked him up and exclaimed: "May you become a monk!"

Joachim Pecci, the present Pope, was but an infant at the time, but he showed by signs that the augury filled him with indignation "A Cardinal, I mean," said the woman, correcting

" You should say a Pope," said the child's mother and thereupon the boy manifested unmistakable joy. Ever afterward the mother's best wish for her son was that he might live to be a Pope. And Pope he Verified in One Particular.

From the Chicago Journal.

"Investigation has pretty thoroughly exploded that Possipontas story."
"And yet there is plenty of evidence that John Smith was served."

TO UNITE ALL IBISHMEN.

in Plans for Commemorating the Irish Bising of 1798 Approved Here.

The New York City Council of the Irish Nation al Federation of America met last night and in dorsed the platform of the United Irishmen's Cen tenial Association of Dublin. This ass has for its object the uniting of all Ireland and all Irishmen everywhere to celebrate the centennary of the Irish uprising of 1798. It makes eligible to membership every Irlahman "who honors the men of '98. Former organisations of this nature have been formed on more or less factional lines, but this association hopes to unite all Irishmen. The Secretary of the New

unite all Irishmen. The Secretary of the New York City Council, Michael Fox, said last night:

"President McKinley is eligible, as he had a great-great-uncle who was hanged, a martyr to the Irish cause, in '98."

The resolutions of the council speak of the new organization as the first public evidence that the Irish people have accepted as a preliminary condition the union of all Irish nationalists and continues:

"We congratulate the United Irishmen's Centennial Association that in their formation, declaration of principles, and objects they have rent the cloud of factional egotism spread over the movement by its early managers.

The officers of the council are: Patrick Gallagher, President; John McKee, Treasurer, and Michael Fox. Secretary. Dr. Thomas A. Emmet, now more than 80 years old, will be Chairman of the delegation to be sent to Ireland this summer if his health permits it.

## DRY DOCKS FOR THE NAVY. Constructor Oashiel's Report of Ris Inspec

tions of Becks Abroad. WASHINGTON, Feb. 7.-Naval Constructor Dashiel, who has just returned from an inspec tion of dry docks abroad, will appear before the House Naval Committee on Wednesday and give his views on the best type of dock for the navy. He found in England that all docks, with few unimportant exceptions, were of stone or concrete, and that wooden docks had long passed out of use. Docks in which vessels had been put in the French revolution were now accommodating

the French revolution were now accommodating thirty-knot torpedo boat destroyers and other small craft. Mr. Dashiel found that many of England's present stone docks were constructed in the last century, and are still in use and almost as good as new. He will urge that no further timber docks be built for the navy and that the highest type of concrete docks be authorized. The English docks, he reports, are the finest in the world, and there are probably more of them than the combined available supply of France, Germany, and Russia.

The fact that the new docks of the navy were of wood astonished the English shipbuilders and they falled to understand how it was possible for this Government to have built a navy without having a first-class dock to take in the vessels. Secretary Long believes that only two docks will be authorized this session, one of which will be located at Boston and the other at some point in the South. He thinks that New York will not secure another dock this year.

# CHAIRMAN DINGLEY'S HAT.

He Shows That If It Was Imported It Is Mor Than Twelve Years Old.

WASHINGTON, Feb. 7.-Representative Ding ley's hat, which Jerry Simpson brought into minence the other day, is still an issue. This morning, as the House leader came into the hall, he was interrupted by a group of Re publican members, who were enjoying one of since Simpson made his speech. "Are you circulating these?" asked Mr. Sher-

"Oh, yes, I suppose so," Mr. Dingley replied with something of a distract air.

After studying the picture a moment, Mr.

After studying the picture a moment, Mr. Dingley went on:

"Of course the whole thing is all rot. But the best thing about it is what one of the assistant appraisers at New York told me. He said, in response to a question by me, that not a single silk hat had been imported into the United States in twelve years.

"You don't mean to say your hat is more than twelve years old," said Mr. Fischer of New York.

Mr. Dingley's assume that the said of th

## Mr. Dingley's answer was lost in the outburst of laughter that Fischer's sally evoked. COLUMBIA TRUSTEES MEET.

The Cost of the University's Removal Reported A regular meeting of the Board of Trustees of Columbia University took place yesterday afternoon. After its adjournment one of the

officers of the board said: "A report from President Low on the expenditures made by the Committee on Buildings and Grounds showed that the university had kept well within the appropriations made by the Board of Trustees last year. This is a distinct gain, for it shows the cost of our removal was less by no small amount than we had antici-

less by no small amount than we had anticipated."

These reappointments in the faculty were announced: Prof. John B. Clark, political economy; Prof. Frank M. Cole, mathematics: Prof. James H. Robinson, history. The following appointments by the School of Applied Science were confirmed: David J. Green, C. E., and William Gregory Hudson, C. E., assistants in mechanical engineering. Dr. W. J. Gies, Ph. D., was amounted instructor in physiological chemistry in the College of Physicians and Surgeons.

#### REAR ADMIRAL BRAINE'S WILL. Relics and Mementoes of Patriotism Amone Mis Legacies to His Children.

The will of Rear Admiral Daniel Lawrence Braine was filed for probate in the Surrogate's office, Brooklyn, yesterday. The value of the estate is not mentioned. The testator leaves practically all his property to his widow, Mary Elizabeth Braine. To his daughter Heloise de Glay Braine, he leaves \$50 a week, and she is also to receive the house at 67 First place upo the death of her mother. His three sons, Lawrence F., Clinton E., and Bancroft G. Braine rence F., Cliaton E., and Bancroft G. Braine, are to receive such income from the estate as their mother may deem wise to allow them. The oil painting of the battleship Monticello and also his larger battle flag and sword are bequeathed to Lawrence F. Braine, and Clinton E. Braine is to receive the oil painting of the United States steamship Vicksburg, while his library and the painting of the Pequot are left to Bancroft G. Braine. Emily Fulton, a sisterin-law, is to receive \$25 a month during her life.

## FOR PENNSYLVANIA'S NEW CAPITOL. Bids Opened by the Commission at Harrisburg

HARRISBURG, Pa., Feb. 7.-The State Capitol Building Commission met this evening and opened bids for the erection of the new State House, but pending argument on the Attorney-General's motion for an injunction to restrain the commission from awarding a contract, which will be heard by the court on Wedneswhich will be heard by the court on Wednes-day morning, the commission took no action to-night. As all the bidders submitted modified bids pursuant to the request of the commission it will be two or three days before the architect can put the figures before the commission in shapefor their consideration. All bidders were re-quested to submit bids on their own modifica-tions of the plans with a view to reducing the cost. All the contractors agree that it will re-quire lively work to complete the building in time for the next session of the Legislature, but all seem confident of their ability to do so.

### CUSTOMS RECEIPTS INCREASING. They Were \$3,000,000 More in January Last WASHINGTON, Feb. 7.-Treasury officials are

much pleased over the analysis of the customs receipts for January-nearly \$15,000,000-as against \$12,000,000 in January last year. This increase is all the more noticeable, they point out, because the imports of sugar and during the month just passed were greatly below the normal, and when the stocks of these commodities, which were imported in anticipation of the higher rates, have been exhausted, the amount of the duties will be still further increased by the larger importations which will be necessary. A statement showing what may be expected in the receipts from sugar and wool up to the end of the flacal year ending June 30 is being prepared by the department, and will be issued shortly. during the month just passed were greatly

#### Higher Rank and Pay for Naval Attaches Abrond. WASHINGTON, Feb. 7.—Secretary Long will

ask Congress for authority to extend additional

rank and pay to naval attachés serving abroad. as proposed in a bill now before Congress making similar provisions for military attachés. Of the three naval attachés in Europe not one is the three mayal attaches in Europe not one is above the rank of Lieutenant. Secretary Long believes that the rank of these officers while abroad on special duty should be that of Captain and Lieutenant Commander, to correspond with the rank hold by attaches at the leading Euro-pean course. He size believes that the system should be extended and attaches assigned to countries where the navy has never maintained any. Japan, he believes, calls for special recog-nition in this line, and it is not improbable that some officer will be detailed to that country seen.

# AMERICAN LITERATURE.

Mr. Howells's Estimate of "Frice Tom's Cabins Vigorously Controverted.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE SUN-Sir: When Mr. Howells creates flotion he is sometimes conventional and dull; when he criticises fiction he is always interesting, and few things could be more interesting than the interview with him to last Sunpay's Sun, in which he discussed

fiction of to-day. With one of his statements I am forced to take issue, for I am unable to share the conclusions of a critic who says: "As for woman's ability, what's the greatest novel that has been written in America? 'Uncle Tom's Cabin,' and

who wrote that ?" I consider Mrs. Stowe's spoch-making book a mere political document, nothing more. From cover to cover it is trivial and inept writing, unworthy, both in matter and form, of the

name of literature.

Can it be called a well-made book, a model of vell-ordered construction ! Does it contain a sentence, a phrase, a word that is natural! Is it not true that in this greatest American It not true that in this greatest American novel one finds leisurely, go-as-you-pleas technique that is almost unparalleled even in the rambling chronicle novels written in England half a century ago! One hundred years benee "Uncle Tom's Cabin" will be read out of curjuly as present day youth read the ephoneral novels that interested their grandtainers. Save by librarians and occasional and overgenerous critics, her other books will remain unread. Mrs. Stowe's heart was great, but her art was scanty; she was a beautiful-minded woman, but her novels, especially her most notorious one, were rough and inchosts. To say that any of her books was great is to misuse language.

language.

I would not have it understood that I thus criticise Mrs. Stowe and her book simply because she is a woman. To my mind there is no sex in art, and I have always admired greatly the work of other American woman writers, the work of other American woman writers, and would not hesitate to characterize as greater than "Uncle Tom's Cabin" certain books of Mra. Hunt. Mrs. Pavis, and one, at least written by the author of "Cape Cod Folks." But when Mr. Howells calls "Uncle Tom's Cabin" the "greatest" of American novels. I state trankly that I think his view untenable. Why. I would rather have written a certain brief scene in "A Hazard of New Foctunes" than all of Mrs. Stowe's novels. And yet the man who created that scene calls a mediocre tract a good novel, and the greatest of American novels at that!

New York, Feb. 7.

# IN COLLISION OFF THE BANKS.

#### Hindeo Gets Here and Lake Ontario Gets to Liverpool, Each with a Stove Bow The Wilson line steamship Hindoo, from Hull

arrived at her pier at the foot of Montague treet, Brooklyn, yesterday afternoon, after a rough voyage, in which she was in collision off steemship Lake Ontario. The Lake Ontario got o Liverpool on Sunday. The ships collided when about 200 miles east of St. John. The ake Ontario was bound from St. John, N. B., to Liverpool, and ran up against the Hindoo in latitude 47.35, longitude 42.55. The Lake Ontario's starboard bow was stove in, and the Hin tario's starboard bow was stove in, and the Hindoo was badly damaged. The collision occurred in a blinding snowstorm. Capt. Cox of the Hindoo said last night:

"We left Hull on Jan. 22 with 600 tons of miscellaneous freight. This was a very light cargo. At noon on Jan. 31 snow began to fall, and got so thick that we were compelled to go slow. It was blowing a gale from the north-northeast. Just after we reduced speed, at 1:23 P. M., I heard the cry of 'Ship to starboard.' Our engines were immediately reversed, but almost as soon as I heard the cry of the watch the crash came. For the way it happened it was the mildest collision that I have ever known. The Lake Ontario struck us on the starboard bow, glancing off to the starboard and disappearing. We stood by for about three hours, but did not see her again. An examination of our damage showed that fourteen shell plates had been injured, together with several deck plates. We found a big hole, which we plugged with wood shored up with planks and wedges. The only passengers we carried were two cattlemen. We had a crew of thirty-seven. The break in the Hindoo's starboard bow begins two feet abaft of the bow. Up and down the dent measures fully ten feet, and twolve of the big steel plates are bent, buckled, and rolled into wavy lines, with checks here and there, which have been wedged with wood. doo was badly damaged. The collision oc-

# BURROS FOR JAPAN.

# A Big Bunch of Them to Be Shipped from the

From the Morning Oregonian It was expected that nearly 1,000 burros ould arrive in Pendleton yesterday from Huntington. Not long ago, when W. L. Powell and A. J. Powell were riding through Wallows county to buy horses they noticed on the range numerous herds of burros. They hunted

what do you want for those burros?" asked one of the Powells.

"What do you want for those burros?" asked one of the Powells.

The owner fixed no price, but would sell.

"I'll give you \$3.50 a head and round them up myself or \$6 a head, you to deliver them at the corrals."

A contract was made on the latter basis for 600 head. The owner found the job of collect-

A contract was made on the latter basis for 600 head. The owner found the job of collecting those burros a big one. They were wild and free and objected to captivity. Since August last from six toten men have been busy with lariate, and they have just finished the work. When a bunch of six or seven were captured their heads were tied together and they were released until wanted. Nearly a thousand head, many of them young jacks, were at last rounded up and delivered. The Powells took them all. They will be shipped to Scattle, and the majority are destined for Japan to be used there as pack animals. Some go to the klondike, however. The younger ones will be released by the Powells on the ranges near Proser, Wash, to further increase and multiply.

A dozen years or so ago the pack train of an emigrant outfit, consisting of burros, was turned toose in Wallowa Valley. From these ancestors sprang the 1,000 head that now comprises the novel shipment of the Powells.

The Travelling Letter of Yalo's Class of '44. From the Worcester Gazette.

From the Worcester Gazette.

Probably no letter in the whole world in all time has been travelling for so long as that of the class of '44 of Yale College. Some lifty years ago some of the members undertook to keep a letter circulating, each man receiving it adding whatever he considered would interest the others, and when the epistle got around to him again removing his previous effort and replacing it with a new one.

So the letter went on its endless way year after year, and to-day it is still moving, telling to the aged men who are left of the class of 'it what their fellows are doing, of their successes and disappointments of deaths, too often as the class dwindles away before the ruthless hand of time. Not all the survivors are members of the chain, but the letter writers are so well distributed that almost all the classmates are head from and hear the news contained in the letter.

At present the letter makes a long journey in the interval between its arrivals to any one man. A Worcester member is John A. Dana, He has just received the regretful comment's ohis classmates at the death of their old friend at college. Col John W. Wetherell, with comments on the newspaper blography which Mr. Isan and inclosed at nis last sending. The letter had gone from Worcester to Lee, Mass.; thence to Chicago, to Minneapolis, to Passadena. Cal. Birmingham, Ala.; Cape May and another New Jersey town: Plantville, Conn.; Pittsield, Somerville and back to Worcester.

#### Money for Entertaining Indians. From the St. Louis Republic.

From the St. Louis Republic.

WASHINGTON, Feb. 2.—Secretary Bliss as Congress to-day a request for \$500 (or regent expenses for the present fiscal year that \$1,000 be appropriated for continge peases for the next fiscal year for the Gov of Oklahoma. Gov. Barnes incloses a left which he complains of the utter inadequathe funds and sets out the various dutifularies to be performed by the Governor we cost comes out of this important item. He rent, printing and telegrams among things, and concludes with these two items. "The question of Indian citizenship brin. Indian visitors to pow-wow with the Gov and he has been compelled to entertains delegations at the hotels. The great three visitors during the last six months has were carpets and racked the chairs so that belineded new, and there is no place to get save through the contingent fund."

#### Why He Wasn't Cold. From the Indian Helper.

From the Indian Helper.

The Marquis of Lorne, when Governor-General of Canada, was present at some sports held on the ice of the St. Lawrence.

Though wranped in furs, he felt the cold keenly and was astonished to see an ancent Indian meandering around barefooted and evoloped only in a blanket. He asked the indian how he managed to stand such a temperature when he had so little on.

"Why you no cover face!" asked the Indian The Marquis replied that no one ever did and that he was accustomed to have his face naked from his birth.

"Good," replied the prairie king: "me all face," and walked away.

Took the Chance and Came to Grief.

From Brooklyn Life.

"Oh, pape, Hise Higher met with an embarrassing accident last evening."
"What was that?"
"She was singing 'The Cown are in the Corn,' and are voice got limits,"